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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONFERENCE TO HIGHLIGHT RECREATION, PARKS AND TRAILS

WEST YELLOWSTONE – The Tri-State Recreation, Parks, and Trails Conference will be held October 6–9, 2010 in West Yellowstone, Montana. All Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana professionals, advocates, volunteers, and businesses who want to learn about the latest trends and issues in recreation are invited to attend.

Two exceptional full-day workshops will bookend the conference. On October 6, a regional “Getting Children Outside” workshop will address the current issues, trends and initiatives related to fewer children enjoying and learning from dispersed outdoor activities. Keynote speaker, Jack Shea of Teton Science Schools, will convey the importance of connecting people, nature, place, and education. National experts from the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy will conduct a full-day seminar on October 9 discussing the process of preserving proposed rights-of-way for public use, sources of information on railroad abandonments, funding alternatives, and congressional action on livable communities.

Other workshop topics include best practices in recreation resource planning, playground design, accessibility standards, collegiate outdoor adventure programs, vandalism prevention and cooperative law enforcement, bicycle and off highway vehicle safety education, Safe Routes to Schools, Share the Road programs, travel planning and many others. .

Noted conference speakers include Janna Rankin, Vice Chair of the National Recreation and Parks Association Board of Directors; Nancy Noonan, a noted health and wellness motivational speaker from Boulder, Colorado; and state park directors from Montana, Idaho and Wyoming.

Field trips include a visit to Yellowstone National Park and Gallatin National Forest maintenance facilities, a bicycle tour of the Rendezvous Area, an interpretive tour of the Quake Lake visitor center, and a tour of West Yellowstone’s community center and trail maintenance facilities.

Exhibitors will be on hand displaying the latest technology and trends in park and recreation equipment and services

Register for the conference online at www.mtrpa.info/conference.php. Early registration ends August 31. For more information, contact Bob Walker at (406) 933-5326 or mtrails@bresnan.net, or Beth Shumate at (406) 444-4585 or bshumate@mt.gov.

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